

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NEW DANISH CABINET

REF: COPENHAGEN 1172

SUMMARY. THE CABINET RESHUFFLE DOES NOT APPEAR TO IMPLY A SHIFT IN GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND WAS PROBABLY PRIMARILY MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO ADJUST MINISTERIAL WORKLOADS. BY AND LARGE, THE CHANGES HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED EVEN THOUGH SOME WERE SURPRISES. IN THIS MESSAGE, WE GO DOWN THE NEW MINISTERIAL LIST AND COMMENT BRIEFLY ON EACH OF THE 18. END SUMMARY.

1. REFTEL REPORTED THE CABINET RESHUFFLE PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN MADE FEBRUARY 25. NONE OF THE CHANGES APPEARS TO IMPLY A SHIFT IN GOVERNMENT POLICIES. THEY ARE PROBABLY MOTIVATED PRIMARILY BY A DESIRE TO REDUCE THE WORKLOAD OF SOME OF THE MINISTERS WHO HELD TWO PORTFOLIOS. THERE ARE NOW 18 MINISTERS (15 BEFORE). THREE ARE NOT PARLIAMENTARIANS. PART OF THE DOUBLE HOLDING HAD BEEN OCCASIONED BY THE RETIREMENT LAST
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SEPTEMBER OF FORMER LABOR MINISTER ERLING DINESEN. IN ADDITION, THE FORMER MINISTER FOR HOUSING AF ENVIRONMENT, HELGE NIELSEN, HAS LEFT GOVERNMENT ALTOGETHER TO ACCEPT ANOTHER JOB.

2. HERE'S HOW THE NEW CABINET LOOKS. EXCEPT FOR OSTERGAARD, WHO RANKS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST, THE

NAMES ARE IN PROTOCOL ORDER.

A) PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN - AS WE HAVE REPORTED, HE HAS MATURED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE POSITION SINCE ASSUMING IT FEBRUARY 1975, AND THE HEAVY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GAINS IN THE LAST ELECTIONS REFLECT THIS DIRECTLY. SINCE THE ELECTIONS, JORGENSEN HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE VERY MUCH IN CHARGE--BOTH OF HIS OWN PARTY AND IN HIS DEALINGS WITH LEADERS OF OTHER PARTIES. HE IS 54.

B) FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN (AGE 62)- HIS CARRYING ON AS HEAD OF A NEWLY-RECONSOLIDATED FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS UNEXPECTED BY SOME. HE MAY HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY IN BRINGING TO BEAR THE KIND OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IVAR NORGAARD DISPLAYED IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EC.

C) MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO LISE OSTERGAARD - A VERY SURPRISING NOMINATION WHICH HAS LEFT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC INSIDERS WITHOUT A GOOD EXPLANATION WHY JORGENSEN CHOSE HER. OSTERGAARD, AGE 52, HAS BEEN A PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY AT COPENHAGEN UNIVERSITY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE DANISH REFUGEE COMMITTEE. SHE IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC, OR ANY OTHER PARTY. CONCEIVABLY THE PRIME MINISTER WANTED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF WOMEN IN HIS CABINET. BUT PRESUMABLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE COULD HAVE FOUND ONE WHO WAS BOTH A PARTY MEMBER AND WITH MORE OBVIOUS CREDENTIALS IN FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS. HER REFUGEE EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, HAS SOME TIE-IN WITH ONE OF THE AREAS SHE SUPPOSEDLY WILL CONCENTRATE ON, THE THIRD WORLD. SHE IS ALSO EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON NORDIC AND UN AFFAIRS, THE LATTER PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

D) FINANCE - KNUD HEINESSEN (AGE 44) CONTINUES. HEINESSEN HAS RECEIVED GENERALLY HIGH MARKS FOR HIS PERFORMANCE IN THIS DIFFICULT POSITION. HE HAS IN THE PAST BEEN ONE OF THE PARTY'S IDEOLOGUES AND IS GENERALLY THOUGHT TO BELONG TO THE PARTY'S LEFT WING.

E) ECONOMICS - PER HAEKKERUP (AGE 61) CONTINUES. - HIGHLY TALENTED AND A FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER, HAEKKERUP STAYS ON IN THE DEMANDING ECONOMIC JOB ALTHOUGH SHEDDING THE COMMERCE PORTFOLIO WHICH HE HELD TEMPORARILY

AFTER ERLING JENSEN'S TRANSFER TO LABOR LAST SEPTEMBER. HAEKKERUP IS NOT, HOWEVER, A WELL MAN, AND IT IS QUESTIONABLE HOW LONG HE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE IN THE CABINET.

F) PUBLIC WORKS - KJELD OLESEN (AGE 44) - ANOTHER SURPRISE. ALESEN WAS WIDELY RUMORED AS A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO K.B. ANDERSEN, SOMETHING OLESEN HIMSELF CLEARLY WANTED. HE WAS REPORTEDLY MORE OR LESS ORDERED TO TAKE THE UNPRESTIGIOUS PUBLIC WORKS PORTFOLIO BY JORGENSEN WHO MAY HAVE FELT UNCOMFORTABLE BECAUSE OF OLESEN'S POPULARITY WITH THE VOTERS. IN TAKING UP HIS MINISTERIAL JOB, OLESEN NECESSARILY LOSES HIS PREVIOUS IMPORTANT POSITION AS PARLIAMENTARY POLITICAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

G) COMMER - IVAR NORGAARD (AGE 54) - AS WE NOTED IN REFTTEL, NORGAARD SHOULD ACQUIT HIMSELF WELL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THIS POSITION. HIS ECONOMIC EXPERTISE AND TOUGHNESS WILL BE NEEDED TO HANDLE A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF HIS JOB, DENMARK'S ENERGY PROBLEMS. IN REMARKS IN THE PRESS, NORGAARD WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE DID NOT SEEK THISJOB BUT ACCEPTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S WISH TO PUT HIM THERE. NORGAARD HAD ALSO BEEN A CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED BOTH HIMSELF AND K.B. ANDERSEN AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN A SINGLE REJOINED MINISTRY. IN SOME WAYS HIS ASSUMPTION OF THIS ROLE WOULD HAVE MADE MORE SENSE THAN ANDERSEN'S CONTINUING IN IT. THERE HAVE BEEN, HOWEVER, RUMORS THAT NORGAARD AND THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT SEE EYE TO EYE ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES. FURTHERMORE, NORGAARD'S INTELLECTUAL, SOMEWHAT CONDESCENDING, DEMEANOR UNDOUBTEDLY DID NOT SET WELL WITH ANKR JORGENSEN'S MORE HUMBLE ORIGINS AND BACKGROUND.

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H) LABOR - ERLCG JENSEN (AGE 57) - ERLING

JENSEN TOOK UP THE LABOR PORTFOLIO LAST SEPTEMBER UPON ERLING DINESEN'S RETIREMENT. A VERY ABLE AND EVEN CHARISMATIC FIGURE WHO MIGHT BE A LOGICAL SUCCESSOR TO ANKER JORGENSEN IF SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENED TO HIM IN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO. ALL OF JENSEN'S TALENTS WILL BE NEEDED TO DEAL WITH THE COUNTRY'S SINGLE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND THE PROBABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE BIENNIAL LABOR BARGAINING BY GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION.

I) INTERIOR - EGON JENSEN (AGE 52) CONTINUES.

A STOLID, RELATIVELY COLORLESS PERSON WHO CAME OUT OF LOCAL POLITICS. BEFORE THE FEBRUARY ELECTIONS IT WAS RUMORED THAT HE WOULD BE DROPPED FROM GOVERNMENT.

J) SOCIAL AFFAIRS - EVA GREDAL (AGE 50) CONTINUES.

NOW A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT. ONE OF THREE WOMEN IN THE NEW ANKER JORGENSEN CABINET, MRS. GREDAL IS A SOCIAL WORKER BY TRAINING AND VOCATION WHO HAS EFFECTIVELY PRESIDED OVER DENMARK'S VAST SOCIAL WELFARE APPARATUS. SHE HAS SOMETIMES BEEN CRITICIZED FOR

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LACK OF ADROITNESS.

K) INTERNAL REVENUE - JENS KAMPMANN (AGE 39) -

NEW APPOINTEE WHO WAS MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS IN ANKER JORGENSEN'S FIRST (72-73) GOVERNMENT. IDENTIFIED AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEFT, HIS APPOINTMENT HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS A NOD BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN THEIR DIRECTION. KAMPMANN, WHO IS AN ECONOMIST BY TRAINING, HAS A VERY GOOD MIND AND COULD ACQUIT HIMSELF WELL IN THE DIFFICULT POSITION AS DENMARK'S TAX MINISTER. HIS APPOINTMENT MAY ALSO SIGNIFY A REACTIVATION OF TAX REFORM PLANS.

1) AGRICULTURE -POUL DALSGER (AGE 47) CONTINUES AS AGRICULTURE MINISTER WHILE GIVING HIS FISHERY HAT TO SVEN JAKOBSEN (SEE BELOW). DALSGER WAS OVERWORKED WITH BOTH THE AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIE PORTFOLIOS AND HAD RECEIVED SOME (LEFTWING) CRITICISM FOR HIS HANDLING OF THE LATTER IN EC NEGOTIATIONS. DALSGER HIMSELF EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE PRESS OVER THE CHANGE "SINCE IT MIGHT BE VIEWED AS IF MY CRITICS WERE RIGHT."

M) FISHERIES - SVEND JAKOBSEN (AGE 41) - MOVED FROM INTERNAL REVENUE. A LOCAL POLITICIAN WHO HAS NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE EITHER IN THE FISHERIES FIELD OR IN THE KINDS OF DIFFICULT INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS THAT THIS POST REQUIRES.

N) CHURCH AND GREENLAND AFFAIRS - JORGEN PEDER HANSEN (AGE 53) CONTINUES. SELF-EDUCATED FORMER CUSTOMS OFFICIAL WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC POLITICS FOR MANY YEARS. THE CHURCH POST IS LARGELY SYMBOLIC AND RELATIVELY UNDEMANDING. THE MOVEMENT TOWARD SELF-RULE IN GREENLAND HAS BEEN PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CEEDING QUOTE WELL WITHOUT MAJOR CONTROVERSY OR POLARIZATION OF POSITIONS. EVEN THE STICKY PROBLEM OF WHO OWNS AND GETS THE PROCEEDS OF GREENLAND'S NATURAL RESOURCES, OIL IN PARTICULAR, SEEMS TO BE MOVING TOWARD A SOLUTION AMENABLE BOTH TO THE GREENLANDERS AND THE METROPOLITAN DANES.

O) JUSTICE AND DEFENSE - ORLA MOLLER (AGE 60) CONTINUES. THERE WERE RUMORS THAT MOLLER--WHO IS MARRIED AND WHOSE CONTINUED LIAISON WITH FELLOW PARLIAMENTARIAN WINNIE RUSSELL HAS BEEN SOMETHING OF A POLITICAL LIABILITY--WAS GOING TO LEAVE THE CABINET ALTOGETHER. IT WAS CERTAINLY EXPECTED THAT HE WOULD GIVE UP ONE OF HIS TWO PORTFOLIOS. MOLLER IS A TOUGH SOCIAL DEMOCRAT OF A RELATIVELY STRONG DANISH DEFENSE POSTURE. ONE OF THE REASONS HE RETAINED THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY ANKER JORGENSEN'S WISH TO AVAIL HIMSELF OF MOLLER'S EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN THE F-16 PROGRAM.

P) CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT - NIELS MATTHIASSEN (AGE 52) HAD HELD PUBLIC WORKS AS WELL AS CULTURAL AFFAIRS. MATTHIASSEN, WHO LOST HIS SEAT IN PARLIAMENT AT THE FEB 15 ELECTION, HAS DISPLAYED MOST INTEREST IN HIS CULTURAL JOB AND WILL BE OVERSEEING AN EXPENSIVE RENOVATION OF THE ROYAL THEATRE. HEW NIW

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INVOLVE HIM IN
THE CONTINUING SHARP INTERNAL DEBATE ON WHETHER DENMARK
SHOULD DEVELOP NUCLEAR POWER.

(Q) HOUSING - OVE HOVE (AGE 62) - AN ARCHITECT
AND "HOUSING EXPERT" HOVE, REPORTEDLY A LONGTIME SOCIAL
DEMOCRAT BUT NEVER ACTIVE IN POLITICS, SHOULD BRING
CONSIDERABLE TECHNICAL SKILLS TO ONE OF THE MOST COM-
PLICATED AND CONTROVERSIAL AREAS OF DANISH INTERNAL
AFFAIRS. HE IS NOT A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.
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R) EDUCATION - RITT BJERREGAARD (AGE 35) CONTINUES.
MRS. BJERREGAARD IS ANOTHER REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEFT-WING. HER TENURE AS
EDUCATION MINISTER HAS BEEN CONTEMPORARY WITH A CRISIS
AT THE EXPERIMENTAL ROSKILDE UNIVERSITY CENTER AND A
GROWING FEELING AMONG THE DANES THAT THERE SHOULD
BE A MOVE IN EDUCATION BACK TO MORE TRADITIONAL NORMS.
SHE, IN FACT, HAS PUSHED FOR A DIMINUTION OF NON-
FACULTY CONTROL IN THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE TERMINA-
TION OF SOME OF THE MORE CONTROVERSIAL EDUCATIONAL
EXPERIMENTS.

3. THE CABINET RESHUFFLE WAS GENERALLY WELL-RECEIVED
BY THE NEWS MEDIA ALTHOUGH SEVERAL PAPERS PROFESSED
SURPRISE OVER THE TRANSFER OF IVAR NORGAAARD FROM THE
FOREIGN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO (EC). THE LARGE
COPENHAGEN DAILY POLITIKEN (INDEPENDENT LEFT- OF-
CENTER) FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE WISDOM
IN MOVING NORGAAARD, WHOSE EXPERTISE IN EC AFFAIRS WILL
BE SORELY NEEDED NEXT JANUARY WHEN DENMARK ASSUMES
THE PRESIDENCY OF THE NINE. THE CONTINUED DUAL
FUNCTIONS OF SOME OF THE MINISTERS LED THE PAPER TO
SPECULATE THAT THIS CABINET WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY
MEASURE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER LEAVING A DOOR OPEN
FOR FURTHER CHANGES IN THE FALL.
DEAN

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